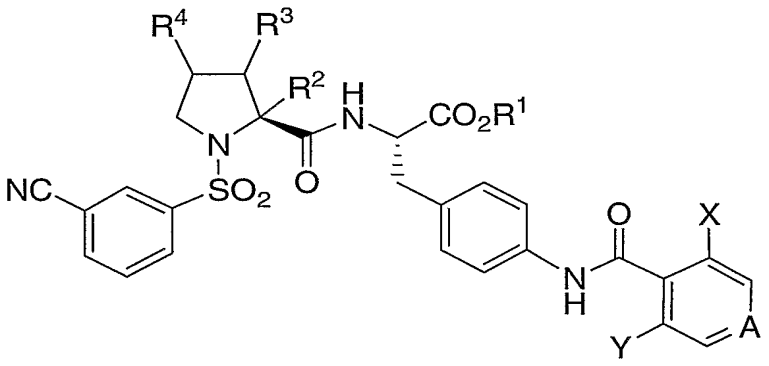
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

A is N or N^+-O^-;

X and Y are independently selected from halogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, and C_{1-3}alkoxy;

R^1 is selected from (1) hydrogen, (2) C_{1-10}alkyl, (3) -(C_{1-10}alkyl)-aryl, (4) -(C_{1-10}alkyl)-O-C_{1-10}alkyl, (5) -(C_{1-10}alkyl)-OC(O)-C_{1-10}alkyl, (6) -(C_{1-10}alkyl)-OC(O)-aryl, (7) -(C_{1-10}alkyl)-OC(O)O-C_{1-10}alkyl and (8) –(C_{1-10}alkyl)N^+(C_{1-3}alkyl)$_3$; wherein alkyl is optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl is optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is hydrogen or methyl;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from (1) hydrogen, (2) -NR^dR^e, (3) -$NR^dS(O)_mR^e$, (4) -$NR^dC(O)R^e$, (5) -$NR^dC(O)OR^e$, and (6) -$NR^dC(O)NR^dR^e$, with the proviso that R^3 and R^4 are not both hydrogen;

R^a is selected from (1) -OR^d, (2) -$NR^dS(O)_mR^e$, (3) -NO_2, (4) halogen, (5) -$S(O)_mR^d$, (6) -SR^d, (7) -$S(O)_2OR^d$, (8) -$S(O)_mNR^dR^e$, (9) -NR^dR^e, (10) -$O(CR^fR^g)_nNR^dR^e$, (11) -$C(O)R^d$, (12) -CO_2R^d, (13) -$CO_2(CR^fR^g)_nCONR^dR^e$, (14) -$OC(O)R^d$, (15) -CN, (16) -$C(O)NR^dR^e$, (17) -$NR^dC(O)R^e$, (18) -$OC(O)NR^dR^e$, (19) -$NR^dC(O)OR^e$, (20) -$NR^dC(O)NR^dR^e$, (21) -CR^d(N-OR^e), (22) CF_3, (23) -OCF_3, (24) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and (25) heterocyclyl; wherein cycloalkyl and heterocyclyl are optionally substituted with one to three groups independently selected from R^c;

R^b is selected from (1) a group selected from R^a, (2) C_{1-10} alkyl, (3) C_{2-10} alkenyl (4) C_{2-10} alkynyl, (5) aryl, and (6) -(C_{1-10}alkyl)-aryl, wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, and aryl are optionally substituted with one to three substituents selected from a group independently selected from R^c;

R^c is (1) halogen, (2) amino, (3) carboxy, (4) C_{1-4}alkyl, (5) C_{1-4}alkoxy, (6) aryl, (7) -(C_{1-4}alkyl)-aryl, (8) hydroxy, (9) CF_3, (10) OC(O)C_{1-4}alkyl, (11) OC(O)NR^fR^g, or (12) aryloxy;
R^d and R^e are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, Cy and -(C_{1-10}alkyl)-Cy, wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and Cy are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^c; or
R^d and R^e together with the atom(s) to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N-R^h, and wherein said heterocyclic ring is optionally fused with a C_{3-8} carbocyclic ring or is optional substituted with 1 to 4 groups independently selected from C_{1-10}alkyl;
R^f and R^g are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-10}alkyl, Cy and -(C_{1-10}alkyl)-Cy; or
R^f and R^g together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;
R^h is selected from R^f and –C(O)R^f;
Cy is selected from cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, and heteroaryl; and
m is 1 or 2.

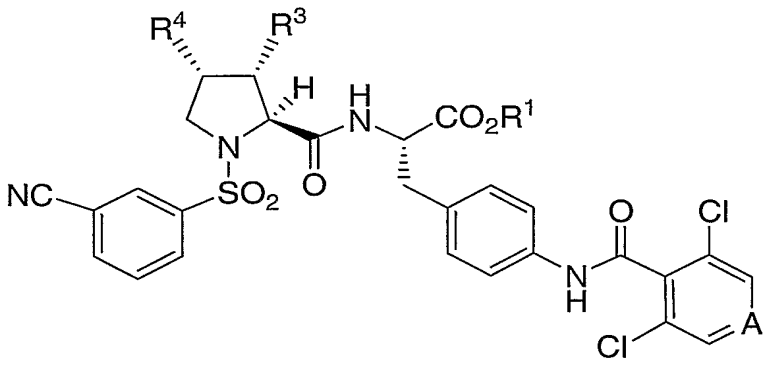
2. A compound of Claim 1 wherein one of X and Y is halogen and the other is selected from halogen, C_{1-3}alkyl and C_{1-3}alkoxy.

3. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^1 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, -(C_{1-4}alkyl)OC(O)-C_{1-4}alkyl, or -(C_{1-4}alkyl)OC(O)-C_{1-4}alkyl.

4. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^3 is hydrogen, and R^4 is NR^dR^e.

5. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^3 is NR^dR^e and R^4 is hydrogen.

6. A compound of Claim 1 having the formula Ia:



Ia

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is N or N^+O^-;

R^1 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-10}alkyl, -(C_{1-4}alkyl)-aryl, -(C_{1-4}alkyl)-O-C_{1-4}alkyl, and -(C_{1-4}alkyl)-OC(O)-C_{1-4}alkyl;

one of R^3 and R^4 is NR^dR^e and the other is hydrogen.

7. A compound of Claim 6 wherein R^d is hydrogen and R^e is t-butyl or cyclobutyl.

8. A compound of Claim 6 wherein R^3 is hydrogen, and R^d and R^e together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing no additional heteroatom and optionally substituted with 1 or 2 groups independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. Use of a compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of diseases mediated by cell adhesion.

11. The use of Claim 9 wherein said disease is selected from asthma, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, sickle cell anemia, leukemia, and rheumatoid arthritis.

12. The use of Claim 9 wherein said disease is heaves in horses.